

WRESTLING FORUM

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VOLUME VI

ISSUE 10

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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in honor of the 4th of July, we present...

THE MOTHER OF ALL ISSUES

At least that's what I've been calling it every time I come up here to type...

As usual, we're a tad bit late this time for several reasons. The first has been the weather. Since I'm laid off from my regular job, I renewed my Amateur Softball Association umpiring license and have been working for a large city softball league. In fact, there's 12 leagues and usually three to four games a night. I've become a very popular substitute plus we've been making up for all the games that were rained out or snowed out at the beginning of the season. The result is, during the past two weeks, I've had a total of three days off.

Let's take care of the business end of things: This is *Wrestling Forum* and we publish twice a month, on the 15th and 30 and mail within a few days. Cost is \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months worth at one time. All renewals, news, results, letters and other pertinent information should be sent to *Wrestling Forum*, Box 65, Knoxville, IL 61448. To tell how current your subscription is, look at your mailing label. There is a line above your name that says "# remaining including this one." That means if you have a "1" in that line, this is your last issue unless you renew.

I believe that the yearbooks are finally in people's hands. We sent them out with the last mailing. Many have called and written about the finished product. Thank you. It didn't come out quite the way I expected, but part of that was due to the computer condensing things. In the past, the typewriter could do only so much in the way of reducing the type. The computer condensed things so that basically, the same amount of information went into the book, it just took up less space. That plus the printer forgot to do eight pages which were mainly pictures of ring of immortal inductees and Sean Hendrick's "Separated at Birth" (which we'll run as a feature here instead).

Our next big project (besides the fact that we've begun work on the 1991 Yearbook already) will be something called **THE BEST OF WRESTLING FORUM, 1985-1991**. We are currently going through all the old back issues and coming up with stuff that was classic. We'll be typesetting the stories and putting them together in one book and it should be available by late fall. No idea of a price, because we haven't figured out what all will be in it yet.

The past couple of weeks have been interesting from a wrestling standpoint. There's the trial of the doctor accused of selling steroids to wrestlers in Pennsylvania, there's Joe Pedicino who claims to be making a move again, there's the WWF crying foul about the court system in the steroid trial, there's the last minute push of the WCW PPV and Ric Flair's last minute contract negotiations. You'll find it just inside....

FIFTH ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

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by Sean Grande

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

The Fifth Annual Wrestling Forum Tournament has concluded with your votes. Here are the results and final standings:

Randy Savage downed Rick Steiner 15-8 (1 draw)

Bret Hart over Great Muta 14-10

Ted DiBiase defeated Owen Hart 16-7 (1 draw)

Ric Flair retained the championship over Curt Hennig 14-9

FINAL STANDINGS

1. RIC FLAIR

2. Curt Hennig

3. Ted DiBiase

4. Owen Hart

5. Bret Hart

6. Great Muta

7. Randy Savage

8. Rick Steiner

My sincere thanks to those of you who took the time to make the Fifth Annual Wrestling Forum Tournament a success. This may be the last tournament depending on whether or not the bulletin is sold, and whether a new editor would want to continue in this tradition.

In either case, it's been fun on this end, and I've made a lot of lifetime friends.

Thanks again.

I•N•D•E•P•E•N•D•E•N•T•L•Y S•P•E•A•K•I•N•G

PEDICINO'S GLOBAL WRESTLING UP AND RUNNING

Joe Pedicino's Global Wrestling Federation has gone from being a pipe dream to a reality. The first TV tapings were done last week in Dallas and the show is set to debut on ESPN on 7/8.

Pedicino purchased the Dallas portion of the USWA from the Jarretts and began running shows last weekend. He taped five hours worth of TV that will be shown on ESPN and the syndicated TV network that came with the package. Plans at present are to tape on a weekly basis. The shows should air within a couple of weeks of the taping.

The ESPN show will take over the USWA show's spot on weekday afternoons from 4-5 pm, EST. As we understand it, the shows will run all five days. ESPN tells us that should the content be objectionable, or should Global fail to produce the number of hours needed on a weekly basis, they (ESPN) would look into another promotion for perhaps two days a week, or go to alternate programming altogether.

The syndicated package will currently be sent out to around 150 stations nation wide. At this time, Pedicino plans no house shows and will limit the action to the Sportatorium (now called the Global Dome) in Dallas.

Basically none of Jarrett's wrestlers were retained in the transition. Pedicino took a lot of the locals from Dallas including Skandar Akbar, Gary Young, Brian Adias, and Sweet Daddy Falcone to use with some of his own Georgia All Star wrestlers such as Nick Busich, and Chris Walker and combined those with other independents from around the country such as Jerry Lynn (Sharkey's PWA), Axl Rotton (Maryland independents), Rip Rogers (all over), and Stan Lane with Jim Cornette.

The first taping crowned a new Global Champion. He is Del Wilkes, who most recently had a try out with Titan and before that worked as the Trooper in the AWA. Wilkes' new gimmick is called the Patriot, and he works under a hood. His finisher is a shoulder block off the top rope called, appropriately enough, the Patriot Missile (Okay, now, for all those who wrote objecting to Vince's Persian War angle, time to either complain again or tell me the difference between that and this).

We'll review the TV show after we have a chance to see it.



YEARBOOK CARICATURES

I loved the smart fan caricature in the Yearbook. I offer the following additions: 1) VIDEOTAPE IN COAT POCKET - Japanese, of course; 2) AUTOGRAPH BOOK - only those who work at least ☆☆☆ are allowed to sign; 3) SMART FAN, STANDING POSITION - shouting real names and upcoming high spots to let everyone know how smart he is; 4) BACK OF T-SHIRT - combined picture of Ric Flair and Jushin Liger to show support for his favorites in his two favorite promotions; 5) SMART FAN SEATED, BORED EXPRESSION - he's too cool to join in the tumultuous ovation for Sid's ring entrance; 6) SMART FAN, STANDING AND CHEERING - Pillman, Arn, Eaton or some other newsletter favorites are entering the ring. Shows appreciation for the best workers. 7) TWO PLANE TICKETS IN POCKET - one for upcoming WCW pay per view and the other for a WCW house show where a title change is rumored. 8) IN HEATED DISCUSSION - complaining about June 12 Flair vs Eaton match and other equally important issues. 9) FRONT OF T SHIRT - always reads "NWA", never WCW. Obsessed with wrestling history and proud of it. 10) TICKET FOR NEXT YEAR'S CAULIFLOWER ALLEY BANQUET.

•STEPHEN MEYERSON•

•BROOKLYN, NY•

One big mistake on the caricatures: The NWA fan is next to a WWF fan. How can that be when the WWF fan doesn't know the WCW exists (ere they be transformed) and the WCW fan wouldn't be caught dead at a Titan show.

•KEN SNIDER•

•Waukegan, IL•

BELIEVABLE ANGLES

In my philosophy of pro wrestling, an angle must be believable in order to be good. I don't care if an unbelievable angle packs the seats with billions of paying fans for months; if that angle is unbelievable then it is bad. Now please let me explain why the Pillman/Yellow Dog angle is a bad angle. Brian Pillman lost a "loser leave WCW match." Within hours, a young masked wrestler is in Jim Herd's office agreeing to pick up the remaining dates of Pillman's contract. Jim Herd agrees, and we have the Yellow Dog. There are only two ways for a casual fan to interpret what happened. First, we are to believe that Jim Herd is so stupid that he would hire someone whose identity he doesn't know to pick up another wrestler's contract? I submit that such a scenario is totally unbelievable, even to casual fans.

Remember, WCW is not supposed to be aiming its gimmicks at pre teens and mental defectives – well, at least not to pre teens. The only other possibility is that Jim Herd knows that Pillman is Yellow Dog and is knowingly turning the “loser leave town match” into a case of false advertising like the stretcher match, botched cage match and other recent disasters. That *is* unbelievable – but that isn’t the angle as it is being played and that isn’t the way WCW wants anyone to read the angle.

I know that there wasn’t a smart fan watching the Clash who actually believed any of the four wrestlers involved in that match were going to leave WCW, but that is beside the point. And it is true that this is certainly not a new angle. Dusty himself has been doing it for at least a decade, but that too is beside the point. The point is that I just get a little tired of false advertising to sell tickets. When I hear of specialty matches being signed, I no longer expect adherence to the stipulation. If very many other people are beginning to ignore the advertising or take it with a grain of salt, that can’t be good for business. But maybe I’m just a minority of one.

Speaking of bad angles, it is going to be very difficult to vote for Worst Angle of the year this time around. Of course, almost everything Titan does is always a legitimate nominee, but this time we have Johnny B Badd, PN News, Oz, Yellow Dog, Big Josh, the Desperadoes, and Fantasia (and I’m probably leaving out a few) in WCW. By the way, I remember when Vince first started doing “video skits” shortly after he took over Titan. I remember one involving Terry Funk in a Western saloon that must have been the inspiration for this embarrassing Desperado nonsense. At the first sign of that idiocy, I turn over to Lucha Libre. If I turn on IWCCW, I get childish Curly Moe videos. What’s it all coming to? Any chance the Ding Dongs and Gobbledy Gooker might make comebacks?

•DON G. SMITH•

•MATTOON, IL•

IN SUPPORT OF BRUCE

Titan has no right to throw Bruce Grummert and his friends out of their house show.

As fans of wrestling, I think we should all band together in support of Bruce and his friends.

May I suggest that the next time the WWF comes to town, that the readers be sure and buy front row tickets. Then be sure to wear WCW t shirts and should insulting things at WWF wrestlers like, “Hey Henning! Flair’s better!” or “Hey Hebner! Been to Dino’s room lately?”.

Real names or chants of “TESTOSTERONE!” at Hogan or Warrior would be effective too.

In other words, make sure they have a legit reason to throw you out, but mess up as much as possible in the process.

•STEVE DECKER•

•PITTSBURGH, PA•

World Championship Wrestling

RIC FLAIR QUILTS WCW - TITLE VACATED

Jim Herd announced Monday night, July 1, in Macon Georgia, that Ric Flair had decided not to sign a contract extension with World Championship Wrestling and as a result, the WCW World title would be officially vacated.

Flair was scheduled to defend the title that night against Barry Windham. His contract expired at midnight June 30. Negotiations continued throughout the day of July 1 in an attempt to come to an agreement. Flair refused to sign the extension a few hours before the scheduled card in Macon. Jim Herd then called a news conference and announced that the title would be vacated. It was also announced at the show that Flair had be stripped of the title.

Flair was notified of the action via fax.

The major stumbling blocks was reported to be Flair's role in the promotion and money. Flair has not been happy since the time Dusty took over as booker. Dusty's track record with Flair as champion is to keep the belt around Flair's waist, but to make him look bad in the process.

A couple of years ago in the year end balloting, Flair, as champion, received a number of votes in the the Jobber of the Year category. As a further joke aimed at the promotion, we had a take off on "Jeopardy!" where the answer was "2" and the question was, "What is the number of clean pinfall victories held by NWA champion this past year?" One NWA official called to voice his displeasure with these two editorial comments. I challenged him to find more than two instances where Flair had had clean pinfall victories during the year. He called back the next day to apologize. He couldn't find more than two.

Flair's current problems with management and booker Rhodes revolved around the July 14 title bout with Lex Luger. According to the grapevine, this was the show in which Luger was supposed to finally win the title. This rumor was confirmed today by WCW officials as fact. Flair objected, as he had in the past, because neither Dusty nor Herd would give him an answer as to what his role would be once he dropped the strap. In the past when Flair would lose the title for a period, he was always assured of when he would get it back. This time, WCW refused to promise the return of the belt to Flair and refused to tell him what kind of role he would be playing once he had lost the title. Flair was suspicious when told that the booking would be done

depending on ratings, fan response, and a number of factors.

This, of course, is the way booking should be done. Vince McMahon has carved out his reputation of going with the flow and if he fails to put over a wrestler in one role, is willing to change the role mid stream. This has been one of the shortcomings of World Championship Wrestling, and before that, the National Wrestling Alliance. If an angle fails to go over, their philosophy has been to show it twenty more times in an attempt to get it over. Either that, or just forget it altogether.

Witness two angles in particular.

The first happened at Halloween Havoc last year. In that PPV, Sting wrestled challenger Sid Vicious. Barry Windham disguised himself as a look-a-like Sting, and allowed himself to be "pinned" by Vicious after a switch had taken place. Announcers made no further mention of this incident after the PPV had ended.

The second was the conclusion of the Black Scorpion angle. Scorpion was revealed to be Ric Flair, but no mention of this was ever made to general TV audiences, despite months of building the angle to a conclusion. No explanation was offered as to why Flair had suddenly learned magic or why he used this approach. It was just dropped.

Flair then found out what the future plans for him included after losing the strap at the Bash. He was going to be used to put over Dustin Rhodes. This led to a major rift between Flair and WCW. Flair reportedly had no problem putting a younger wrestler over, but objected to having to put the son of the booker over.

There is no word on the future plans of Ric Flair. Naturally, speculation is that he will head for the WWF, but at this point, that is just speculation. One WWF official that I contacted this afternoon was not even aware that Flair's contract with WCW had expired, let alone that he was leaving the promotion. A second source (you could hear this guy drooling over the phone at the prospect of having Flair) told me that if it were up to him (it isn't), he'd have Flair interrupt the wedding of Randy and Liz at SummerScam.

As for the July 14 PPV from Baltimore, there are no definite plans (that should give you an idea of just how good a manager Jim Herd really is: Less than two weeks to go with a possibility that Flair would not be renewing his contract and no contingency plan available!) for the championship match. As of this moment, the most logical match would be between Luger (he will definitely be in the championship match - it's just his opponent we're not sure about) and Barry Windham with the winner take all. We have been assured by WCW officials that whatever the decision, Flair will be the victim of a major league burial when they decide to announce the new match.

Here's the kicker: WCW personnel told me this morning (July 2) that they did not know if they would be able to announce a change in the title match *prior* to the PPV or not! They told me that the infomercial (the 30 minute commercial that reviews all the feuds and is shown on cable systems to try and sell the show) has already been done and that changing it would

incur major expense. They did not know if the TV shows, syndicated and TBS, would reflect the change or not. By Wednesday morning, the 3rd, there was a crawler across the bottom of the screen on the informercials on Viewer's Choice telling fans that Flair would not appear on the Bash.

Further, if the match comes down to Luger vs Windham, there is no guarantee that Luger will come out of the match with the belt. Two theories prevail: 1) Windham was being looked at to take the title this fall should Luger prove that he can't draw. The timetable may be stepped up. 2) The match would go to a no contest of some sort with the two meeting over the next two months at all the Bash shows with the one who wins the most matches being declared champion. This, according to the person I spoke with, would help anticipated anemic gates on the Bash tour. We both agreed that this was highly unlikely.

In other news, Scott Steiner will be out of action for a while after tearing a tricep muscle in his right arm. He was reportedly hip tossing One Man Gang out of the ring in a battle royal in St. Louis and was injured in the process. He is expected to miss eight weeks including the Bash PPV.

Ted Turner strikes again. He's developed a cartoon series called the American Patriots for TBS. Those characters will come to life in the form of wrestlers for WCW. This sounds like Dusty's WWF intro skits, but here it is: The group will consist of four everyday heroes, a policeman (Bill Kazmaier - the weightlifter from the Knoxville Clash), a private (Todd Champion), a fireman (Curtis Thompson) and a garbage collector (Pez Whatley). From the last one, I can guarantee another barrage of letters complaining about stereotypes. From the entire group I feel a very satirical top ten list coming next issue.

Dan Spivey was fired for his testimony in the steroid trial. WCW officials deny that was the reason, but when it happens the next day, well, that's just too much of a coincidence.

On Sat, a magazine that is the TV Guide for satellite dish owners, has been doing favorable reviews on WCW. It doesn't hurt that Turner is spending major bucks advertising his PPV specials in the magazine. They tell us that WCW is planning to come out with a newsstand magazine, different from *Wrestling Wrap Up*, that will be a cooperative effort between London Publishing (Apter's *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, et al) and *Wrap Up* publisher/editor Dennis Brent. It should be on the newsstands by fall. It will be a copy of the *WWF Magazine* for the most part. Let's hope for a couple hundred less pages of advertising per issue if that's the case.

Phantom of the Ring

by Ed Garea

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

THE NATIONAL - I've received several calls since the National folded, telling me that I was right. Funny, but I'd much rather be wrong. Although it didn't take a financial genius (there are plenty of those left?) to see that a sports paper launched during a recession when advertising is low would fail, it still is a loss. Why? Well, certainly not because of the usual features, but because it contained the best weekly wrestling column in the country: Dave Meltzer's "No Holds Barred." When one reads the dreck served up in the dailies (if they even have a wrestling column) one can appreciate the stand of the National even more. Even if one knows that Vince tried to get Dave fired on at least one occasion. But then, since when has Vince ever advertised in the paper? Me thinks not. Yes, the National certainly had its failings, but its wrestling column was not one of them.

THE NWA/WCW/ALPHABET SOUP - Hey, I've got to give this group some credit for actually attempting to put together a competitive promotion. But, the NWA still seems to be trapped in a split personality. One side is the contemporary push, as with PN News, and on the other is same old country crap pushed by Dusty. Case in point for the latter is the thoroughly atrocious Desperado video in which three characters in search of a brain wander aimlessly through a Wild West set and say the word "dadgum" over three hundred times (or so it seemed). We are asking ourselves why they are even here. It seemed like a rotten gimmick built around a rotten angle and destined to go down the tubes. But I've seen worse than this actually make it.

Looking at the other side, PN News, as much as I dislike the character, it taking off rather well. It's really not a bad idea for a middle-of-the-card performer, and, for once in the NWA, the idea appeals to the teen set. But, oh, that rapping! I've heard screeching cats who were better! To Mr. News, therefore, I am sending my Phantom Rap:

I'm the Phantom and I don't wanna be mean
 But PN News is the worst rapper I've seen
 His words are dumb and voice isn't so nice
 In other words, PN stinks on ice!
 I know his rap is all the rage
 But I can sum him up in just one phrase:
 No! Baby! No! Baby! No! Baby! NO!
 No! Baby! No! Baby! No! Baby! NO!

Now you won't believe me, but I really like the Johnny B Badd character much more than I ever thought I would. I think much of it has to do with Mark Morro himself. The man pulls out all the stops and shows absolutely no sense of embarrassment. But I have not yet seen Mr. Badd wrestle, and although I will withhold full judgment of this angle until then, I have the feeling that Johnny B Badd may be the NWA version of Irwin R Shyster: a

great gimmick until he actually has to get into the ring and work.

The way things are looking right now, I wouldn't be surprised if Lex Luger goes over for the belt at the next PPV. They showed him beating the Great Muta at the last spectacular and on the regular weekend show, dug out a tape from last year's Bash that showed Lex beating the Undertaker, then known as Mean Mark. Hey, it's about time the NWA did something like this. It's a good salvo on the fight for equality with the competition.

Although it would look that the NWA is finally on the right track, it may be a case of too little, too late in the fight to capture the hearts of wrestling fans. The perception of the NWA has been that it is the Ted Turner Television promotion and it may be a tad too late to change that notion.

THE WWF – I've finally figured out that the initials of the WWF really stand for the Wacky World of Fantasy. Get this one: The WWF has issued a statement that it was "victimized" by reports that a suburban Harrisburg doctor, one Dr. George Zahorian III, to be exact, supplied steroids to Hulk Hogan, Roddy Piper, Rick Martel, Brian Blair, and Dan Spivey. This is tantamount to Baby Face Nelson saying that he was being victimized by being listed as Public Enemy number one by the FBI. While his statement that "neither the WWF nor any of its wrestlers or associates has been charged with any illegality" is true (after all, it is the doc who is on trial), nevertheless, the wrestlers were called as witnesses. It could well be true that the defense is using the wrestlers as sort of a red herring to divert suspicion away from the doc, but I don't think so. This is going to be one fun trial. The funniest part of the WWF statement was when they stated, "We stand by our philosophy of wholesome family entertainment and the positive example we set for the youth of America." *Wholesome family entertainment?* Yeah, maybe if it's the Manson family. *Positive example we set for the youth of America?* Gee, I can't think of any more positive role models than Sgt. Slaughter, the Undertaker, Irwin R Shyster, or Bobby Heenan, can you? One thing about the WWF, they don't disappoint, do they?

John Tolos should take that stupid whistle out of his mouth before he speaks. Sounds like a fingernail being run down a blackboard...Is it me or does Andre the Giant sound like a record played at a lower speed?...Judging by Tugboat's new costume in his Typhoon role, they're not planning to push him much...If Sid Vicious goes over well as Sid Justice, look for him to be the next champ. I've heard things aren't so hunky-dory between the Boss and the Hulkster...Look for Randy and Miss Elizabeth to be married at Summerslam and for Ted and Sherri to mess things up and star the inevitable feud...If Hawk's condition fails to improve, this could be the end of the line for the Roadies. Too bad, for they are one of the few charismatic acts in the WWF...With every passing week, Prime Time Wrestling hits new lows in the departments of intelligence and taste. With its revolving cast of "regulars" in the audience, it is the poor man's Abbott and Costello show, if such a thing is possible. The only good thing about it is Heenan's wit.

The Trial of Dr. George Zahorian III

Doctor George T. Zahorian III went on trial in federal court this past week in Harrisburg, PA on charges of supplying steroids to bodybuilders and wrestlers. The story has gained a lot of national exposure because of the wrestlers involved. He was found guilty on twelve counts of supplying illegal steroids to clients. Sentencing will be this coming week. He is now eligible for 3-5 years on each count with a maximum fine of \$250,000 on each count.

Court documents failed to name the five wrestlers by name, but referred to them as John Doe, differentiating them with the use of a middle initial. This cover up did not do a lot of good, because the news media latched on to the real names almost immediately. Subpoenaed were Brian Blair (John B. Doe), Rick Martel (John M. Doe, etc.), Dan Spivey, Roddy Piper and Hulk Hogan.

Of the five, Hogan was the only one not to appear. his attorney, Jerry McDevitt, successfully blocked the subpoena by arguing that an appearance by Hogan would be a violation of his privacy. He also said that if Hogan were to admit to steroid use, it would damage his public image.

The other four testified and admitted to buying steroids from Dr. Zahorian.

Zahorian's attorney, noted defense specialist William C Costopoulos, compared favorably to the fictional Perry Mason, is challenging the constitutionality of the laws violated by his client.

Costopoulos is using the argument that the law banning the use of steroids interferes with a doctor's right to practice medicine and the users' rights to take the drugs. In his argument, he cites cases where doctors are allowed to prescribe controlled substances for weight loss and other cosmetic purposes. He contends that doctors should have the right to prescribe steroids for weight gain.

"With this law, Congress invaded the rights of individuals to pursue the lifestyle they want to pursue. It has interfered with the medical profession's province of determining what is and what isn't appropriate," Costopoulos said.

District Judge William C. Caldwell heard these arguments in a pretrial hearing and ruled against them. Costopoulos, despite the ruling in pretrial, will be able to argue on those grounds during the trial.

The prosecuting attorney, US Attorney Theodore B. Smith III, charges that Zahorian sold the drugs wholesale as a drug dealer would do. He contends that Zahorian did not *prescribe* the drugs, rather he sold them to the bodybuilders and wrestlers. Being a doctor gave Zahorian easier access to the drugs, according to Smith.

Zahorian took the stand in his own defense. He said that he began prescribing steroids for Hogan and other pro wrestlers after witnessing an illiterate wrestler injecting himself with a drug marked: "FOR VETERINARY USE ONLY" about ten years ago.

"I wanted to educate them," Zahorian testified. "These individuals were more than my patients. I considered these men part of my family. They were so misunderstood. People would make fun of these men. People considered them freaks, men from a sideshow. They had nobody to go to."

Zahorian became associated with the wrestlers while he was a ringside physician for the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission for TV tapings in Allentown and Hershey.

He said that he had prescribed anabolic steroids to a bodybuilder, William H Dunn, who later demanded that he continue to supply the drug. Zahorian claims that the bodybuilder made veiled and outright threats on the welfare of the doctor and his family should the supply stop. It was Dunn who turned states evidence and wore a hidden tape recorder to record drug deals with Zahorian.

These tapes were entered into evidence and were possibly the most damning testimony against the doctor. Instead of sounding like a doctor prescribing medication, Zahorian came across to the jury as a greedy drug pusher.

On cross examination, Costopoulos tried to discredit the tapes and Dunn. He pointed out sections of the tape where Zahorian promised to give Dunn "everything I have."

"Why was Dr. Zahorian worried about disappointing you, Mr. Dunn? You weren't intimidating him in any way to give you everything he had, were you, Mr. Dunn?" questioned Costopoulos.

Dunn simply replied, "No."

Part of the tapes however, also contained Zahorian making reference to the deals as a "cash and carry" deal, and their illicit nature. He also advised Dunn on how to smuggle the drugs and get them past customs.

An audit by the Food and Drug Administration was also damaging. They compiled a chart to show that Zahorian had purchased 49,700 tablets and 8,800 intravenous doses of anabolic steroids in the two year period covered by the indictments. The chart showed that only 700 tablets and 532 liquid doses had been actually prescribed to patients.

At the time in question, November 1988 - March 1990, it was not illegal to possess steroids, and therefore, the wrestlers named as witnesses will not be prosecuted for using the steroids. The law at that time was written so that it was illegal to prescribe the drugs for reasons other than medical purposes.

Prior to the start of the trial, Costopoulos was successful in averting media attention from his client to that of the wrestlers, Hulk Hogan in particular. National wire services jumped on the story, writing it in such a way that it appeared that Hogan and the others appeared to be on trial. Many readers from around the country report that local newscasters said that Hogan and other wrestlers had been accused of taking steroids.

Titan Sports responded strongly, issuing a press release which said in part, "To insure the safety and well being of our performers, fans, and employees, in June 1987, the WWF adopted a drug policy prohibiting the use of controlled substances in connection with any of its professional activities."

Costopoulos has already announced that he will appeal the verdict.

To answer one of the most asked questions about this whole thing, Why wasn't Ultimate Warrior called as a witness? one has to realize the time frame of the whole thing. The wrestlers who were called to testify were all employed by Titan prior to or just at the beginning of Warrior's stint. Warrior had not yet had the chance to become established. He was probably buying (if he bought steroids at all) from whoever had supplied him in World Class where he worked as the Dingo Warrior.

In a related subjects, Superstar Billy Graham appeared on the Harrisburg courthouse steps and announced that he will be filing suit against TitanSports, Vince McMahon Jr., Dr. Zahorian, and an unnamed manufacturer of anabolic steroids for his problems that he has experienced.

Lyle Alzado, former pro football player and TV star (he starred in "Learning the Ropes," a short lived syndicated show where he played a wrestler) told an NBC talk show that steroids were responsible for his brain cancer that has been diagnosed. If memory serves me correctly, Alzado was once a proponent of steroid use.

THE IMMORTAL HULK HOGAN EXEMPT FROM US LAWS

editorial by Jon Gallagher

A few years ago, Steve Howe, a relief pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, was standing the National League on its collective ear. Whenever Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda needed someone to stop a rally, he called on Howe, and most of the time, the fireballing right hander was successful. He helped the Dodgers into the World Series.

Steve Howe might be one of the many major league millionaires today had it not been for an addiction to cocaine. He was given several chances to clean up his act before the commissioner of baseball issued a final mandate: One more time and you're out of baseball.

Howe decided that the high from cocaine was worth more than his career in baseball and he lasted less than two weeks before snorting a near career ending nosefull.

Howe is now pitching for the Yankees in another of his numerous attempts to get back in baseball after fighting his cocaine addiction. Despite his popularity when he first came up, it's been a rocky road back to the big leagues.

Dwight Gooden is another cocaine abuser. His fastball, clocked in excess of 95 miles an hour, was thrown a number of times while he was high on coke. He has since undergone rehab and remained sober.

The story of Pete Rose, one of the greatest hitters the game has ever seen is legendary. His alleged gambling and tax evasion landed in him jail and got him kicked out of the game to which he had devoted his life. Even though he has more lifetime hits than any other human, he may be denied entry into the Hall of Fame because of his off the field activities.

These are examples of three athletes who were in the public eye and suffered as a result. Steve Howe's babyface complexion had people shaking their heads. How could such a cute, young man be snorting coke?

Titan Sports seems to think that they are bigger than life, even bigger than baseball. Hulk Hogan's attorney argued that if he appeared to testify on behalf of the prosecution in the Zahorian Steroid trial, it would harm the image that Hogan had built.

So what?

What makes Hulk Hogan and the WWF think that they are above the law? What makes Hulk Hogan any different from "milk and cookies" Steve Howe? Who would have thought that Pete Rose had anything to hide in his closet? What makes Hulk Hogan exempt when Howe, Rose and Gooden all had to undergo public scrutiny for their indiscretions?

Mr. Hogan should have been made to appear at the trial despite the implications his testimony would have wrought.

Titan has long sought to control the media. They tried their best to have Dave Meltzer's "Grunt and Grin" column removed from the National because it reflected badly on them. They refuse interviews with the press unless it casts them in the most positive light. Interviews with their wrestlers are allowed only when the interviewer agrees to certain guidelines, including refraining from asking questions about a wrestler's past.

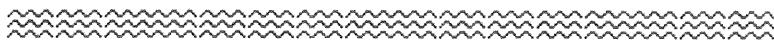
Now Titan and its battery of legal eagles seeks to control the court system of the United States. They successfully blocked the testimony of Hulk Hogan. We wonder how long it is before they block something more important.

Six years ago, Bob Orton, working at the time for Titan, was arrested in Lincoln, IL on a drunk driving charge. Although convicted of the charge and given probation, Titan was able to cover up the story on a national basis.

This past December, Bobby Hennis violated the Titan drug policy when he passed out on an airline flight. In their customary double standard, his indiscretions were allowed to slide.

One has to wonder if the United States is the right country for Titan Sports to be based.

With their practices, a communistic country that admires someone like Saddam Hussein might be a better place.



with help from **Bill Burnett**

Eddie Gilbert has left the promotion, apparently to work for Joe Pedicino and his Global outfit. There was no mention of Eddie on this past weekend's show, even though he had wrestled as part of a tournament the preceding week. In fact, that tournament, a round robin affair that had Dundee vs Styles, and Gilbert vs Ta-Gar in the first round, was not mentioned at all. It had been announced the previous week that this round robin tournament would determine the number one challenger for the Southern belt.

We speculated last issue that a break up of Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller might be in the works. The notion was given further credence this past Monday night when Jeff and Robert squared off against Judge Dred and Samu in a match where the losing team had to break up. I'm glad I didn't make a bet on that match, coz I would have lost. Fuller and Jarrett retained their tag team titles on that 7/1 card.

Jerry Lawler continued to feud with Eric Embry over the past couple weeks, though that feud may be coming to an end. Two weeks ago, Lawler wrestled Leatherface, a character based on the one from the Texas Chainsaw Massacre movies. A video was shown of Lawler vs Leatherface from the Pitkin building that had Leatherface holding the advantage throughout. Lawler was selling everything. After the strap came down (Lawler's trademark move) Leatherface still held an advantage until Lawler cradled him with a schoolboy roll up. That victory gave him a three minute match with Embry.

Embry immediately jumped in the ring and began to pound on Lawler and once again, Lawler was selling everything in sight. Lawler survived two piledrivers to make a comeback at the two and a half minute mark, but Embry managed to run for the final thirty seconds before the bell rang and he retired to the dressing room. Eddie Marlin came out and announced to the crowd that he would have a match Saturday on TV between Lawler and Embry.

On the following Saturday, however, Embry appeared on TV on crutches (see 1990 Wrestling Forum Yearbook, "Rules of the Game" section 2, rules 1-1B) and claimed he couldn't wrestle. He said that Tom Pritchard would be substituting for him. Lawler agreed, but as soon as he did, Embry enforced the aforementioned rule and broke the crutch over his head. Lawler made a comeback and chased Embry through the ring and around the studio.

Later in the show, Embry came out and ended up punching out Eddie Marlin and grabbing announcer Michael St. John by the coat and threatening him. Lawler came out to make the save, but Marlin picked himself up off the floor and announced that he had had it and that as of that moment Embry was fired. Naturally, Lawler protested, saying that if that was the case, then he

could never get his revenge. Marlin okayed the Monday night Pitkin Building match, but said that that would be Embry's last match in the USWA.

It turned out that this was not Embry's final match, because this past Monday night, they had what they billed as the "Grudge match of the Century." Funny, whenever I think of the Grudge Match of the Century and who the participants might be, three of the four names in this match never enter my mind. Shows how much I know, I guess. Anyway, we had Embry and Leatherface teaming up against Jerry Lawler and Jackie Fargo. Bill Burnett suggested that maybe when they said "Century," they were talking about the total combined ages of the wrestlers divided by two. Anyway, we know that Lawler and Fargo won the match, but that's all the details we have.

Tom Pritchard and Miss Texas are in the middle of a feud with the Dirty White Boy and the Dirty White Girl. On TV this past weekend, during a match, Pritchard handcuffed DWB to the ropes while Miss Texas went after DWG. Together they "tarred" (molasses) and feathered DWG while DWB stood by helplessly handcuffed to the corner ropes. We'll be seeing some mixed matches with these four will all sorts of stipulations over the next few weeks.

The only thing that spoiled this angle was the announcers when they came back from commercial. Before they took the station break, DWG was sitting on the floor, leg spread apart with a look of disbelief on her face as the molasses dripped off her hair and clothes. Dave Brown and Michael St. John expressed their concern like they should have.

However, when they came back, Dave Brown was still giggling at what was a pretty funny sight. He tried to catch himself, but sometimes, live TV lends itself to moments like these. The more you try not to laugh, the harder you end up laughing. He finally regained his composure.

Rob Zukowski is an impressive rookie who's been in town a few weeks. He was originally brought in to participate in some kick boxing matches with Dom Chang Mang but was impressive enough in his short stint that they've decided to keep him around. He's small, but has some flashy moves that don't show the same stiffness for which rookies are usually noted. His finisher is a bouncing reverse somersault from the top ropes. Eric Embry tried to recruit him during an interview and Zukowski replied, "I wouldn't spit on you if you were on fire." That's what led to the situation where Embry attacked Eddie Marlin.

Ta-Gar, the guy who shoots fire from his glove, looks like he is being phased out already. He did a job for Lawler on TV, but still remained strong. Last Monday night he put Bill Dundee over at the Pitkin Building. We think this may be Jeff Gaylord in his 423rd character. The body build is very similar.

THE ROCKERS

MARTY JANETTY & SEAN MICHAELS

REAL NAMES: MARTY JANETTY & SEAN HICKENBOTTOM

Marty began his career first in 1983 after being trained by Jerry and Ted Oates. He first began under the name Marty Oates but that lasted less than six months.

He went from the Mid South to Central States in 1984 and became one of the most popular wrestlers in that area, holding the TV championship of the promotion at one time. He went on the AWA in January 1985 where he wrestled as a singles until hooking up with Sean Michaels to form the Midnight Rockers.

Sean began in wrestling in 1984 for Bill Watts as a jobber after being trained by Mexican star Jose Lothario. His work quickly impressed many and he headed for Joe Blanchard's Southwest Championship Wrestling where he formed a tag team with Paul Diamond called the USA Express. After that promotion was forced out of business by Vince McMahon, he went to the AWA where he formed the Midnight Rockers with Marty Janetty.

They have worked together ever since. They won their first tag team championship in the AWA defeating Buddy Rose and Doug Somers on 1/17/87. They held the belts for four months before jumping to the WWF. They lasted there just one night and were fired for some heavy duty partying.

They returned to the AWA and were awarded the belts in January 1988 when the Original Midnight Express quit the promotion. Two months later, they lost the belts once again to Badd Company (Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond).

They spent some time in Memphis, working as heels before heading to the WWF.

The Rockers are possibly the only team to have won tag team titles in two promotions, only to have the wins overturned later by the promotions. They defeated Rose and Somers in the AWA but had the decision later reversed and just the past year, defeated the Hart Foundation for the WWF titles, only to have that nullified when NBC changed the TV schedule.

World Wrestling Federation

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The WWF made its way into Peoria, Friday 6/21, and I had the misfortune of being in the audience to watch the fiasco. Let's take a look at the card first before getting on to other news; that way, maybe the memory will just go away.

Card opened with Warlord vs Steamboat. They turned out the lights so Ricky could blow fire, which he did. The crowd went "Ohhhhhh" in unison. That's the last time that sound was heard from this crowd the rest of the night. There was no wrestling to this one at all, and a lot of missed moves, including clotheslines that just sailed into never never land. The match went more than twenty minutes because they had to stall until someone else got there. The end came with both guys outside the ring, and Ricky just beating the count of 23 to get back in the ring for a count out win. Yep. I counted with the ref, and he counted to 23. Must be a new rule. **GRADE: Z**

The Sheepwhackers vs Paul Roma and Steve Lombardi was next. Hercules no showed. The Sheeps got a hot tag at the end and had Brawler pinned, but Roma came in to deliver an elbow drop. The Whacker moved, Roma dropped the elbow on Lombardi and then the Sheeps did the battering ram to end a terrible match. **GRADE: D-**

Figure out the IQ of fans in Peoria...next up was Sgt. Slaughter vs Davey Roid, the British Bulldog. These humanoids began chanting "USA" for Davey Roid. Slaughter really put out at the end, though the beginning and middle were pretty bad. Smith went to suplex Sarge into the ring, but Kaissey pulled his foot (almost forgot to) and Sarge landed on top for the pin. **GRADE: D+**

Virgil wrestled Curt Hennig and won when Curt hit him from behind with something for a DQ. It wasn't very good, and Curt looked like he was tired. John Tolos was at ringside with Hennig, but the fans could have cared less. **GRADE: D-**

Ted DiBiase vs Roddy Piper was a good match if you like comedy. Roddy did a schtick with Sherri outside and once pulled her into the ring and acted like he was going to hit her. He had a handful of her hair and instead of whacking her, he pulled her into a kiss. Ted won with a figure four. He had been working on Roddy's knee throughout the match and the ref stopped the match. This match had super heat. **GRADE: B-**

Then came the battle royal. Fans started booing because, according to the lineup sheet (which I didn't buy) there were two matches missing. I know Kerry Von Erich was supposed to be

0 there and have no idea what happened to him. Anyway, Here's the order of elimination from the battle royal: Luke Sheepwhacker, Brooklyn Brawler, Koko B Ware (who showed up to work less than one minute for the night), Mr. Fuji (scrapping the bottom of the barrel for participants, aren't we), Paul Roma, Bezerker (who got back in anyway even though his feet touched the floor and they announced him as being eliminated), Steamboat, Butch Sheepwhacker, Bulldog, Haku, Hennig, Snuka, Warlord and Bezerker (this time for good), and Virgil.

This left Sgt. Slaughter, Barbarian and Jim Duggan in the ring. They doubled on Duggan, thought they had him out but he came back in and threw both heels out to win the thing and preserve the Peorian custom of shouting "Hi-yo!" in the parking deck loud enough for folks in Springfield to hear.

There were about 4000 fans in attendance with a gate of close to \$40,000. That's pretty good for Peoria because we usually one have around 2000 per show. It was a Friday night and the Chiefs (minor league baseball team that is averaging over 3000 per home game) were on the road.

Just to put this in perspective: The WWF's gate in Peoria was greater than the WCW's gate in Chicago for the same weekend. That says a lot without any further comment.

There has been a problem with no shows over the past couple of weeks, some with reasonable explanations, some not. Hulk Hogan was pulled from all his house shows right after the steroid trial thing began. A couple reasons behind this include the negative publicity surrounding the breaking of the story and the possibility of being served with additional subpoenas. USA Today ran a story on the front page and almost every paper in the country had a story somewhere in it with Hogan's picture and some derogatory comments like "Body from a Bottle?" attached. Because of the negativeness of press, Titan decided it would be best to pull him from shows. Hogan wore a neck brace/cervical collar to explain some neck injury and even wrestled with it in place a few times.

Other no shows include Hercules, who reportedly failed a drug test. Kerry Von Erich has also been skipping dates, but no one is sure why. Curt Hennig missed a few dates with a wrenched back, but as evidenced by the report from Peoria, he's back on the road again. Road Warrior Hawk also has a back injury that will keep him out of action for quite some time. In the Legion of Doom's scheduled matches with the Nasty Boys, Animal is going one on one with either Knobs or Sags instead of getting another partner.

From the latest set of TV tapes in California, they have announced two main events for SummerScam. The first will be a tag match with Hulk Hogan teaming with Ultimate Warrior and going against Sargent Slaughter and the Iron Sheik. Special referee for the match will be Sid Justice. They introduced Sid and made him out to be a heel, but he said that he was there to see that Justice was served and refused to be bought off by the heels.

This match has several possibilities. Most insiders think that Slaughter will end up turning babyface when Iron Sheik turns on him. That seems to be the most logical. I have not heard who the Sarge is booked with after SummerScam. That may be a clue in itself. Other theories include Warrior turning. I doubt that since he is still booked in body bag matches with Undertaker throughout the fall.

The second main event won't be billed as a wrestling match, but it is being billed as a "match made in heaven." On the latest set of tapings, Randy proposed to Elizabeth and she said, "Ohhhh, Yeeeeessssss!" Yeeeeccccchhhh is more like it. They'll be married in the ring at SummerScam. We, along with every other person in the world who has ever watched more than two hours of wrestling in their lifetime fully expect the ceremony to be interrupted by heels. The most likely choice at this time would be Ted DiBiase and Scary Sherri.

Former WWF color guy, Jesse Ventura, will leave his position as color commentator for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this season for a similar position with the Minnesota Vikings' broadcast team. His broadcast partner will be former Viking David Huffman.

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Last issue we expressed some concern over the angle where Nikita Koloff threatened the little kid. Turns out the kid is wonderful actor named Ben Sullivan. Yep. Daddy is none other than Kevin. We were told also that the lady who came out to make the save was the kid's real life mother, but that turns out not to be the case. We're still not sure of her identity.

## RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

6/15 SEMINOLE, FL (MALENKO'S UWF) - courtesy of SHANNON ROSE...Brian Jernagan drew Rock and Roll Warrior...Spartan over Cody Wade...Trooper & Big V beat Jim Cooper & Paul Sampson...Chris Proctor defeated Barry Horowitz...Dean Malenko pinned Jumbo Baretta...NOTES: attendance 200...Trooper was not Del Wilkes...

6/21 MINNEAPOLIS (WWF) - Bret Hart over Iron Sheik...Sean Michaels beat Kato (Paul Diamond)...Animal beat one of the Nasty Boys...Jake beat Earthquake by DQ...Mike Rotundo over Greg Valentine...Bossman pinned Jacques Rougeau...Warrior over Kane the Undertaker by DQ...NOTES: attendance: 6000...Animal took belts after he beat the Nasty boy, but he was overruled by the ref...best match of night was tied between Bossman/Mountie and Warrior/Kane.

6/22 CHICAGO (WCW) - courtesy of KEN SNIDER...Larry Zbyszko beat Sam Houston (D-)...Oz pinned Joey Maggs (ZZ)...Rick Steiner & Tom Zenk beat Stan Hansen & Dan Spivey via DQ (C+)...Ron Simmons over One Man Gang via DQ (C-)...Luger defeated Nikita (B)...Arn & Barry by count out over Sting & Yellow Dog (D+)...Ric Flair over Gigante (D)...NOTES: attendance: 1500...Sting made save for Luger when Nikita went after him with chain, but got hung with chain for his trouble. He missed most of the next match because it appeared that Nikita hung him for real. He pinned Arn Anderson, but the referee, I guess, already ruled a count out.

6/22 BOSTON (WWF) - Steamboat over Roma...Snuka DCOR Valentine...DiBiase/Rotunda beat Virgil/Piper...Tornado pinned Dino Bravo...Jake pinned Earthquake...Mountie over Bossman...Sheeps beat Orient Express..Warrior beat Undertaker by DQ...NOTES: attendance 5000...Bravo subbed for Hercules...Andre came to ringside with Jake and helped him win...Valentine played the heel in his match with Snuka.

## MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

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C'mon, Lance, we haven't even got a dog!!!

Congratulations go out to reader Dan Reilly and fellow editor Tom Burke who have landed a weekly radio show on WNNZ, 640 AM in Springfield, MA. The show will air Saturdays at noon and run for an hour. Promised are interviews with special guest wrestlers, listeners' phone calls, trivia (and Tom Burke writes the world's toughest trivia questions) and lots more. It's a 50,000 watt station that covers a wide area of New England.

We're late again, and partly due to the 4th of July holiday. Part of that is a blessing though because the Flair story seems to be changing every hour. I think I've updated the thing at least ten times since I originally wrote it. What you have is the most current news that I have. The bulletin is being taken to the printer on the 4th (he say's he'll be there catching up on some work), so that should give you an idea of how current the situation is.

Good wholesome family entertainment: a nine year old in Richmond VA set his teddy bear on fire after he saw professional wrestlers do it on TV the previous day. The resulting fire caused about \$15,000 damage to his family's home. And some of you don't worry about plastic bag angles!!!

Next issue we should have some information on the sale of the Forum. The potential buyers are due down this weekend to help put the thing together once we get it back from the printer so they can see just what they're getting in to should they decide to buy. Also next time, part II of the Phantom's continuing series on the origins of stereotypes, plus the wrestling barometer, a report on the Great American Bash, News from Global, and some special satirical stuff to make a point with Mr. Herd.

Subscription drive is just about over; we're giving up. I'm tired of watching the circle fill up with the wrong color. Thanks to those who helped.

Until next time, be sure to be nice to umpires; you never know when one will be a newsletter editor.

Bye.

# W R E S T L I N G F O R U M

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